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Einige therapeutische Versuche mit der Hypnose. SPERLING. Neurol. Centralblatt, June 1, July 1 and 15, 1888.

Dr. Sperling has applied hypnotism in a number of cases with good results, and in these articles describes eight of them. Half were of hysterio-epilepsy, two more of hysterical paralysis, and the last two of hysteria in connection with the after effects of malaria and typhus. The first case, that of a young man, is particularly interesting. He came under observation in September, 1887, with well marked fits. His heredity was good and the disease of traumatic origin. Electrical treatment had to be given up after a single application, and hypnotizing was tried as an experiment. He proved very susceptible to suggestion and showed improvement at once. The hypnotizing was followed up with other vigorous treatment, and though he relapsed three times from sufficient causes, by the first of January, 1888, he was recovered and at his place as head bookkeeper of a large business house. The part played by the hypnosis, which was produced about eight times only, was the prevention of the fits, thus paving the way for other treatment. The change which it made seems to have been the substitution of lighter equivalents—at least, several attacks of dizziness and faintness, and, later, two of griping and diarrhoea, were so regarded by the doctor. The next case was of a married woman whose first seizure followed the relation of a horrible incident to her when in a state of nervous exhaustion following child-birth. The disease later became chronic. The third was a young woman of neurotic heredity who suddenly fell in a fit on the street. With both these the conditions of home life were such as to continue the disease rather than favor its cure, but the good effects of hypnotic treatment were clear, especially in the last, where practically no other remedy was employed. The fourth case was under treatment for too short a time to count for anything except an experiment. In the fifth and sixth the treatment was apparently completely successful, and, perhaps, as far as mere functional disturbance was concerned, in the seventh and eighth. The author does not hold hypnotizing for a panacea; it has failed in many cases, though he has not reported all in which it has been beneficial. And even if it should prove to accomplish only a temporary relief, or one to be completed by other remedies, it is not an unimportant gain to therapeutics. In summary of his present views, he says that the systematic use of hypnotism is justified as a last resort; that its use either in treatment or investigation belongs to the physician; that the therapeutic effect depends on a right knowledge of the disease, on the way of hypnotizing and suggesting, and on the personal influence of the physician over the patient; that definite rules cannot be made for its application, but that when rightly applied it is not, in his experience, followed with bad consequences.

L'hypnotisme et l'École de Nancy. BERNHEIM. Revue de l'Hypnotisme, May, 1888.

This article is a brief and definite statement, by one of its leaders, of eight of the distinctive points of the school of Nancy. The points are in substance as follows: 1. They do not find Charcot's three stages, or any other physiological phenomena, without conscious or unconscious suggestion, and do find them with suggestion. 2. Hypnosis of *les grandes hystériques* is the same as with other subjects.